

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 4 and 10 without prejudice.

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for facilitating the connection of tubulars using a top drive, the apparatus comprising a plate attachable to said top drive, a supporting member for supporting a tool and a ~~means~~ motive member for allowing substantially horizontal movement of said supporting member.
2. (Currently Amended) An apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said ~~means~~ motive member allows substantially vertical movement of said supporting member.
3. (Currently Amended) An apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said ~~means~~ motive member comprises a rigid member arranged between said plate and said supporting member and arranged on at least one axle.
4. Cancelled.
5. (Currently Amended) An apparatus as claimed in any of Claim 2, wherein said ~~means~~ motive member comprises pistons and cylinders arranged between said plate and said supporting member to allow vertical movement of said supporting member.
6. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in any of Claim 2, further comprising a slider to facilitate vertical movement of said supporting member.
7. (Currently Amended) An apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, wherein a ~~mud~~ pipe fluid conduit is arranged between said plate and said supporting member.

8. (Currently Amended) An apparatus as claimed in Claim 7, wherein said ~~mud pipe~~ fluid conduit is moveable in relation to said plate and said supporting member ~~about ball joints~~.
9. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said supporting member is a hydraulic motor.
10. (Cancelled) An apparatus as claimed in Claim 1 including said tool.
11. (Currently Amended) An apparatus as claimed in Claim ~~40~~ 1, wherein said supporting member is integral with said tool.
12. (Currently Amended) An apparatus as claimed in Claim ~~40~~ 1, wherein said tool is for gripping a tubular.
13. (Currently Amended) An apparatus as claimed in Claim ~~1~~, ~~including a~~ 12, wherein said tool is rotatable by the top drive.
14. (Original) A method for facilitating the connection of tubulars using a top drive, the method comprising the steps of attaching a tool to the top drive using a supporting member and adjusting the supporting member to cause the tool to be displaced horizontally relative to the top drive.
15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, wherein adjusting the supporting member comprises adjusting pistons and cylinders arranged between the supporting member and a plate attachable to the top drive.

Please add the following claims:

16. (New) The method of claim 14, further comprising transferring a torque from the top drive to the tool.

17. (New) The method of claim 16, further comprising engaging a first tubular with the tool and rotating the tool to connect the first tubular to a second tubular.
18. (New) The method of claim 14, wherein displacing the tool horizontally aligns a first tubular with a second tubular.
19. (New) The method of claim 14, further comprising engaging an interior portion of a tubular with the tool.
20. (New) A top drive system for connecting tubulars, comprising:
 - a top drive;
 - a tubular gripping apparatus; and
 - a structural intermediate operatively coupling the tubular gripping apparatus to the top drive, wherein the structural intermediate is adapted to allow the tubular gripping apparatus to move horizontally relative to the top drive.
21. (New) The top drive system of claim 20, wherein the structural intermediate includes a fluid conduit for fluid communication between the top drive and the tubular gripping apparatus.
22. (New) The top drive system of claim 20, wherein the structural intermediate comprises a first support member connectable to the top drive and a second support member connectable to the tubular gripping apparatus, wherein the second support member is horizontally movable relative to the first support member.
23. (New) The top drive system of claim 20, wherein horizontal movement of the tubular gripping apparatus comprises moving the tubular gripping apparatus away from a central axis of the top drive.

24. (New) The top drive system of claim 20, wherein the horizontal movement is in a substantially horizontal plane.

25. (New) An apparatus for facilitating the connection of tubulars using a top drive, the apparatus comprising a plate attachable to said top drive, a supporting member for supporting a tool, and a means for allowing substantially horizontal movement of said supporting member, wherein said means comprises a rigid member arranged between said plate and said supporting member and arranged on at least one axle, wherein said means comprises at least one arm arranged between said rigid member and said support member and connected thereto by spherical bearings.

26. (New) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said motive member couples the plate to the supporting member.